HOW GILPIN RODE

One of the Adventures of John Gilpin, Junior.

No doubt you have all read "the diverting history" of John Gilpin's Ride -a holiday jaunt of a hundred years ago. The sad Mr. Cowper's gay account of this expedition races from London down to Wau, and back, much after the manner of the calender's horse. In fact, the verses are so lively that I seriously believe John Gilpin, Sr., is destined, poetically speaking, to race up and down to the end of the English language. My hero's story must amble along in the most unas-

suming of prose. John Gilpin, Jr .- that was not his real name, but it serves my purpose -lived in a little town "out west." He had great big shining gray eyes, a fresh rosy face, and a rollicking laugh that set everybody laughing who heard it. When a funny thought struck him, he had to break out, no matter if he was in school with the teacher looking straight at him; whereupon the laugh would go round the room-just like a marble knocking out a line of marbles, one striking another-and then the teacher would start him home to receive due punishment there. She couldn't whip him any more than she could a butterfly-he was so bright and innocent-and it seemed dreadful to punish anyone for being too happy; but she must have order. It happened, however, that John seldom reached the door before the teacher relentedthe little face looked so sober and contrite, the little trowsers so short and primary, that discipline was impossible. Besides, Miss Beach felt sure that John's father, being a minister, had to the rearing of children, and that he would try to do his duty-a proceeding she couldn't, for two consecutive minutes, think of furthering.

to prayer meetings on Wednesday nights, to learn the formulas of some week days he was always going somewhere-climbing up trees and ladders, sliding down hill and rolling over embankments, to miraculously escape life. And every night, at precisely five minutes after nina o'clock, he went to sleep. Now and then, on bright Sunday afternoons, his father would take him to "points in the field which must be cultivated." And John suploesn't break out into the rollicking periment in physics! to introduce him to you.

of Plainview. In twenty-four hours ministers from far and near would assemble under the white frame belfry for their semi-annual meeting, and John's mother felt that chickens, succulently prepared, must be in readiness to support church counsels. Two miles away lived Mrs. Bird, who was known to have excellent poultry and to seil it at reasonable rates, and thither it was determined to send John and "old Ponce" for supplies. John was now eight years of age-which was young for a man; Ponce was sixteen-which was old for a horse, but the two were intimate friends. As for Ponce, I he was second only to John himself in general esteem. He helped in a subordinate but very important way-to cheer the despondent, to warn the erring, to marry and bury people, and to carry the gospel over a large area of prairie-paganism. In the performance of this last duty he showed an unswerving regard for denominational courtesy. He knew at what gates to balt and what gates to pass delicately by. And if John's father ever stopped at a house with an alien creed, it was against the distinct remonstrance of Ponce. He was not a dangerous steed, since John's mother, a slim, soft-speaking woman, could drive him almost anywhere, and turn round with him by. And if John's father ever stopped anywhere, and turn round with him too!- but the fire of colthood had not wholly died out. He shied occasionally at mysterious white objects-us if he had not entirely abandoned an

early belief in ghosts, and he utterly refused to be friendly with a railway locomotive. He would look it full in the face, but at a distance which showed great coldness of feeling. What right had it-a one-eyed thingto go snorting contemptuously along regardless of everybody? Why he would travel half a mile around-if necessary-rather than even frighten children at play!

I speak of Ponce's well-known goodness of heart that you may understand how it was that he was so implicitly trusted to carry a precious and perishable family treasure to and from Mrs. MILLHAUPT'S - ORCHESTRA Real Estate and Bird's.

The saddle went on, John followed, and a pleasant trot along a level coun try road soon ended at a farm-yard gate. John stated his errand, and, after some alarmed cackling died away, he found himself in the possession of four fat pullets, half dead with fright. A happy thought occurred to "Cheap Enough." load by tying a pair of chickens to Is what they say when purchasing each side of the bridle-rein. This he did, to his own satisfaction, and to the Picture Frames, Stationery, News intense admiration of Tommy Bird-a bit of color perched on the fence like at M. J. PARRETT'S NEW STORE, of one. MISS (ARRIE WATKINS, Lock Robin come to life again-and 216 N. Main. - Call and See Us. 143 N. Main. Over Sedgwick Co. Bank.

tnen, with a gay flourish of horsemanship, he turned homeward. Ponce picked up his ears and trotted down the lane at a brisk pace. By the time he had reached the main road his gait was lively-very lively, indeed!-but z horse going home to a good meal of oats was known to travel well, so John wasn't surprised. Ponce, however, was confounded. He was accustomed to the flapping against his flanks

of saddle-bags weighted with cleanliness on one hand, and godliness on the other-that is to say, with fresh linen and religious literature-but what could be the meaning of these dreadful neckbags? He stopped, shook his heal, and pawed the ground. These proceedings did not help matters—as he evidently hoped they might-for down the bridle-rein began to slide the reanimated and hapless pullets. What were these monstrous things fly-

ing across his vision and eachling under his very nostrils? He tried to jump a seven-railed fence, while John clung to saddle and mane like a barnacle to the hull of a ship; he puffed like a levinthan-if anyone knows what that is like; and then he dashed madly down the country road. There were no travelers on the highway, which was a fortunate circumstance, as Ponce in his temporary insanity would have been quite as regardless of human life as the most despicable of steamengines. Not a soul was in sight to watch the mad ride. Indian corn stared tall and green from both sides of

the fence, and sparrows looked out from the hedges-these were the only living things to see the weight-carrying race of my dear little John Gilpin. Off flew his hat, but no matter-he had a better one at home! On went his steed, the affrighted missionary! There was a wild satisfaction in going so fast-it was like flying, and he had great respect for Solomon's advice as always wished to fly. Mr. Wale's farm was passed. And could that vision of white and green be Mr. Stron's-so. soon? Really, this was going as fast as he cared to go!-a pleasure from t John went to Sunday school and which he had hitherto been debarred church on Sunday forenoons, went up. by his parents and the parish. He felt stairs and read some chapters in the very much exilarated and somewhat Bible in the afternoons, and went to startled. I think if he had known church in the evenings. And he went that, in addition to the linear flight

Ponce was treating him to, the earth was whirling him around its axis, and good and unchangeable brethren. On sweeping him around the sun, and carrying him around some wonderful center, the compound multiplication of motion would have seriously nlarmed him; but as he knew nothing death about every ten minutes of his of the wheels within wheels, and the sturdy spirit of the west was in his veins he was not mayed. That red blur must be Mrs. Perkin's barn! "Only half a mile, Ponce! S-o! s-o!" he said, soothingly. But Ponce would listen so no caposed a schoolhouse was called a Jolement, even though a friendly lit-"field" because it was in the country, the voice poured it directly into his and because the women who sat in it wore sunbonnets. He would wriggie things flapping into his very face? He through the sermon trying to under. gave an indignant heave, and John, stand what "adoption" meant while realizing that his ride was over, looswatching the free grace of squirrels ened his feet from the stirrups and

darting up and down, in and out, of slipped deftly off-with the saddle. the trees which skirted the school. Onward plunged Ponce, and, in a few house. But it was the glorious buggy minutes the exhausted animal halted ride to and from "the field" which at the parsonage gate to beg, with alfilled him with special and secular de- most human cries, for deliverence light. To be "going, going, go- from the unaccountable burden swing-ing" was his idea of bliss, ter- ing under his dilated nostrils. As restrial as well as celestial. The may be supposed, the arrival of the cars which rolled twice a day through riderless and frenzied horse plunged his town stirred wild longings as they the parsonage and its neighbors into came and went across the prairies an agony of fright; but John was soon They seemed to him to be carrying met trudging buoyantly homeward, happy travelers into enchanted re- and then came tears and laughter, He knows better now. He chiding and thanksgiving. What an knows that hearts can ache in a palace excitement for everything and everycar and break in a great city. He is a body-pullets. Ponce, parsonage and young, happy fellow yet-only he parish-all because of an innocent ex-

laugh of his early years. "I wish I To this history one item alone recould." I heard him say not long ago. mains to be added. In the years that But to my story. If I have seemed a have followed hard upon the sunny long time in getting started in it, re- morning of this story, my hero has member that several years have passed taken many a merry gallop, but he has over John's brown head since I began | never repeated the ride of John Gilpin, An important event neared the town -

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